

REMARKS

This is submitted as a full and complete response to the outstanding Official Letter. The Examiner has required a three-way restriction grouping the claims as Group I, claims 1-18 and 23-37; Group II, claims 19-22 and 38-40; and Group III, claims 41-44. The applicant herewith elects to continue prosecution on the claims of Group I, namely claims 1-18 and 23-337. This election is made without traverse.

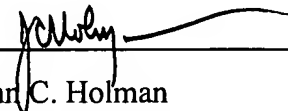
Furthermore, the Examiner has required an election of Species should the Group I claims be elected, setting the species as Species A, casting a facing and a cementitious second material on top of the facing material as represented in claim 23 and Species B, applying a retarder as represented in claim 34. The applicant elects to continue with Species A and therefore it is assumed that examination will be carried out on claims 1-18 and 23-33.

It is assumed that if a generic or subgeneric claim is found allowable the non-elected species claims that depend therefrom would also be found allowable. The non-elected claims are retained in this case pending decision to file divisional applications.

Early and favorable action on the merits of the elected claims is courteously awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

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